

Insect Study Merit Badge

Welcome to the Insect Study Merit Badge program at Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce St., Annandale, VA. 22003 Phone 703-941-1065

Below is the recommended homework to be completed before the program:

We recommend that you download the merit badge worksheets from meritbadge.com and bring these worksheets to class. These worksheets help scouts organize their homework and classwork.

Requirement 4 a & b. Start observing and documenting up to 20 insects in their habitat. Make a scrapbook (bring to your merit badge class) of the insects you've observed. You may include photographs, sketches, illustrations or articles. Be sure to label each insect with its common and scientific name when possible. You may use field guides from Hidden Oaks or the library to assist you with this before or during the merit badge class. During class we will review the orders so that you will have at least 4 represented in your scrapbook.

Requirement 5.a. In your scrapbook note 3 species which are helpful to humans and 5 which are harmful to humans.

Requirement 7. Raise an insect through complete metamorphosis from its larval stage to its adult stage. If you would like to use a mealworm, contact Hidden Oaks to pick up a free mealworm before class or get one in class to rear at home. Mealworm beetles should be returned to Hidden Oaks. Mealworms may be purchased at many pet stores including Pet Smart. Note that a praying mantis has incomplete metamorphosis so this insect does not qualify.

Requirement 11. Find out about three career opportunities in insect study. Pick one and find out about the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss this with your counselor, and explain why this profession might interest you.

What to bring to the program:

- Bring a digital camera. Please ensure the camera is ready to take photographs (batteries, memory card) and that you know how to use the camera.
- Bring your blue card
- Bring your completed homework. It is OK if you cannot complete the homework before class. You can bring completed homework in at a later date for sign-off.
- Bring/wear weather appropriate clothing/outerwear. We will not go outdoors in heavy rain or thunderstorms. Boy Scout uniform is not required.
- Bring a pencil and pen.
- We recommend that you download the merit badge worksheets from meritbadge.com and bring these worksheets to class. These worksheets help scouts organize their homework and classwork.
- Bring a snack and drink (no red colored drinks due to the potential for carpet stains) or money to purchase some at the visitor center.

Homework to be completed after the program: The merit badge counselor will do a demonstration or explain the process for completing the final merit badge requirements. Your scout

must provide evidence of completion in order to obtain blue card sign-off. Digital photographs of your scout doing the element and a picture of the completed requirement will be sufficient evidence. If your scout has a strong understanding of the requirement, he is welcome to complete this requirement at any time. Remember to document work and completion via digital pictures.

Once the pre-work, class work and post homework are completed, all elements of the merit badge will be complete.

If your scout needs blue card sign-off after the class date, please call 703-941-1065 to arrange a time to meet with a merit badge counselor.

We're looking forward to working with your scout.

Suzanne Holland
Assistant Manager
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